

REMARKS

Claims 61-71 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 72-100 are canceled.

Claim 61 is allowed.

I. Formal Matters

The Examiner has not returned an initialed and signed copy of the PTO Form 1449 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement of April 1, 2002.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return the properly initialed and signed Form 1449 in the next communication.

For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the PTO Form 1449 filed with the Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith.

II. Detailed Action

A) Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 62-71, 73, 78-89, 95-98, i.e., all of the dependent claims, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Examiner asserted that the dependent claims should begin with the article "the" and not "a."

All remaining dependent claims have been amended to begin with the article "the."

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and remove this rejection.

B) Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 72-73, 78-89 and 95-100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejected claims have been canceled, thus making the rejections moot.

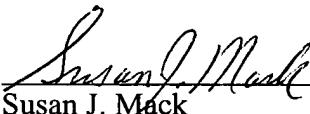
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/018,773

Q67842

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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